

In re application of: Ioana Popa-Burke et al.  
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Amendments to the Claims

1-25. (Canceled)

26. (Original) A high throughput method for preparing a profiling sample in at least one selected vessel of a plurality of vessels, the plurality of vessels being received in a plurality of corresponding receptacles defined by a plate and arranged according to a coordinate system, said method comprising:

performing an automated tare measurement of the selected vessel independently of the plate with a weighing device;  
dispensing a portion of the profiling sample into the selected vessel with a dispensing device; and  
performing a gross measurement of the selected vessel, having the portion of the profiling sample therein, independently of the plate and with the weighing device, a weight of the portion of the profiling sample thereby being determinable as the difference between the gross measurement and the tare measurement of the selected vessel.

27. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 26, wherein at least one of the plate and the selected vessel comprise an indicia configured so as to indicate information corresponding to the selected vessel, said method further comprising updating an indicia the information corresponding to the selected vessel with at least one of the tare measurement, the gross measurement, and the weight of the portion of the profiling sample, wherein the indicia is operably engaged with at least one of the plate and the selected vessel and is configured so as to indicate information corresponding to the selected vessel.

28. (Original) A method according to Claim 27 further comprising storing the information indicated by the indicia and corresponding to the selected vessel in a database implemented on a computer device.

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29. (Original) A method according to Claim 26 wherein performing a tare measurement further comprises:

- removing the selected vessel from the corresponding receptacle of the plate with a robotic device;
- transferring the selected vessel with the robotic device into operable engagement with the weighing device so as to allow the weighing device to perform a tare measurement of the selected vessel; and
- replacing the selected vessel in the corresponding receptacle of the plate with the robotic device.

30. (Original) A method according to Claim 26 wherein performing a gross measurement further comprises:

- removing the selected vessel from the corresponding receptacle of the plate with a robotic device;
- transferring the selected vessel with the robotic device into operable engagement with the weighing device so as to allow the weighing device to perform a gross measurement of the selected vessel and the portion of the profiling sample disposed therein; and
- replacing the selected vessel in the corresponding receptacle of the plate with the robotic device.

31. (Original) A method according to Claim 26 wherein dispensing a portion of the profiling sample further comprises dispensing a portion of the profiling sample comprising a powder.

32. (Original) A method according to Claim 26 wherein dispensing a portion of the profiling sample further comprises dispensing a portion of the profiling sample comprising a homogenous free-flowing powder.

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33. (Original) A method according to Claim 26 further comprising computing the weight of the portion of the profiling sample disposed in the selected vessel by deducting the tare measurement from the gross measurement.

34. (Original) A method according to Claim 26 further comprising providing an alert if the computed weight of the portion of the profiling sample disposed in the selected vessel is outside a predetermined range criteria.

35. (Original) A method according to Claim 26 wherein performing a tare measurement further comprises performing a tare measurement of each of the plurality of vessels.

36. (Original) A method according to Claim 26 wherein performing a tare measurement further comprises performing a tare measurement of each of at least one selected vessel of the plurality of vessels.

37. (Original) A method according to Claim 26 wherein dispensing a portion of the profiling sample further comprises selectively dispensing a portion of the profiling sample into each of at least one selected vessel of the plurality of vessels.

38. (Original) A method according to Claim 26 wherein dispensing a portion of the profiling sample further comprises dispensing, selectively and in a predetermined order, a portion of the profiling sample into each of at least one selected vessel of the plurality of vessels.

39. (Original) A method according to Claim 26 wherein dispensing a portion of the profiling sample further comprises dispensing a portion of the profiling sample into each of the plurality of vessels.

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40. (Original) A method according to Claim 26 wherein the plurality of vessels further comprises a control vessel and dispensing a portion of the profiling sample further comprises not dispensing a portion of the profiling sample into the control vessel.

41. (Original) A method according to Claim 40 further comprising dispensing a control sample into the control vessel between the tare measurement and the gross measurement thereof.

42-55. (Canceled)